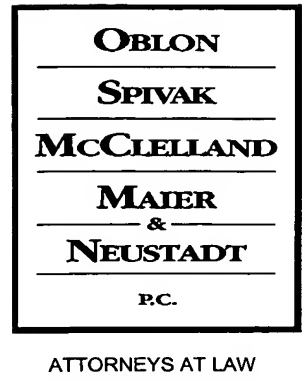




Docket No.: 219491US3

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 10/073,910  
Applicants: Yoshinobu TAKANO  
Filing Date: February 14, 2002  
For: METHOD FOR COUPLING PLASTIC OPTICAL  
FIBERS  
Group Art Unit: 2883  
Examiner: HEALY, BRIAN

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory J. Maier

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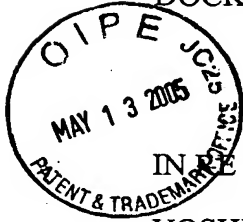
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Customer Number

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DOCKET NO: 219491US3



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN APPLICATION OF :

YOSHINOBU TAKANO : EXAMINER: HEALY, BRIAN

SERIAL NO: 10/073,910 :

FILED: FEBRUARY 14, 2002 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2883

FOR: METHOD FOR COUPLING :  
PLASTIC OPTICAL FIBERS

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

The Statement of Reasons for Allowance included at page 2 of the Office Action dated November 29, 2004, characterizes the invention in terms of "plastic optical fibers." Although these features are disclosed in Claims 21 and 22, these features are not disclosed in independent Claim 23.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that this portion of the Statement of Reasons for Allowance is understood not to apply to independent Claim 23. Notwithstanding this assertion, Applicants respectfully assert that independent Claim 23 is understood to be

Application No. 10/073,910  
Reply to Notice of Allowance of March 18, 2005

allowable for reasons including the recitation of a material having thermal expansion properties similar to a fiber.

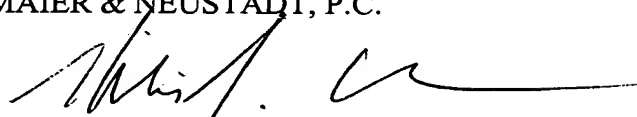
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Respectfully submitted,

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GJM/PH/me  
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